



**Testimony of Connecticut Fund for the Environment
Before the Environment Committee**

***In support of S.B. 254, AN ACT RESTRICTING THE APPLICATION OF FERTILIZERS
THAT CONTAIN PHOSPHATE***

Submitted by Jessica Morowitz, Legal Fellow
March 7, 2012

Connecticut Fund for the Environment ("CFE") is Connecticut's non-profit environmental advocate with over 5,400 members statewide. For over thirty years, CFE has fought to protect and preserve Connecticut's health and environment.

CFE strongly supports S.B. 254, An Act Restricting the Application of Fertilizers That Contain Phosphate. S.B. 254 is an important bill that will help protect and improve water quality in Connecticut.

Restricting the application of fertilizers that contain phosphate to lawns, especially in close proximity to water bodies, is critical to protecting water quality in Connecticut. This is due to the negative impacts associated with phosphorus pollution. Phosphorus pollution is caused by excess phosphorus entering water bodies from many different sources, one of which is lawns that are fertilized with fertilizers that contain phosphate. When high levels of nutrients such as phosphorus enter water bodies it stimulates algae growth, which in turn leads to decreased levels of oxygen in the water. This causes the quality of these water bodies to degrade and can harm aquatic life, wildlife and human health. Phosphorus pollution can be particularly problematic when it impacts drinking water sources. Not only do the algae blooms create problems for drinking water, some of which are untreatable, the chemicals used to treat drinking water can have negative health effects as well.

In addition to impacting human health and the environment, phosphorus pollution has an impact on the economy. Using additional chemicals to treat drinking water sources can be costly. Moreover, additional treatment chemicals can cause health impacts which in turn increase health care costs. Also, when water bodies become too depleted of oxygen, they can no longer sustain healthy fish and aquatic life populations. This can impact the livelihoods of those who depend on these waters to make a living, as well as tourism and recreation.

For the above stated reasons, CFE strongly supports S.B. 254, An Act Restricting the Application of Fertilizers That Contain Phosphate. CFE thanks the Committee for its attention to this important matter, and urges the Committee to vote favorably on this bill.